

26 Passive: Present Simple and Past Simple

- 1 We form the Present Simple passive like this:

am/is/are + PAST PARTICIPLE				
Glass	is	made	from sand.	

POSITIVE & NEGATIVE

This programme **is shown** on TV every Thursday.

These computers **aren't produced** any more.

QUESTIONS

When **is breakfast served** in this hotel?

(For information on the forms of regular past participles, see Table D on page 95, and for irregular past participles, see Table E on page 96.)

- 2 We form the Past Simple passive like this:

was/were + PAST PARTICIPLE				
Anna	was	born	in Germany.	

POSITIVE & NEGATIVE

'Romeo and Juliet' **was written** by Shakespeare.

The goods **weren't delivered** yesterday.

QUESTIONS

When **was your camera stolen**?

- 3 Look at these sentences:

ACTIVE:	They sell	OBJECT	here.
		cold drinks	
PASSIVE:	Cold drinks	SUBJECT	are sold here.

Notice that the object in the active sentence (**cold drinks**) is the same as the subject in the passive sentence. We use the passive when it is not important who does the action, or when we don't know who does it:

*These cars are made in Japan. (We don't need to say ... **by Japanese workers**.)*

This castle was built in the twelfth century. (We don't know who built it.)

- 4 Now look at these examples:

(i) **Alfred Hitchcock** was a great film maker. **He** directed this film in 1956.

(ii) This is a wonderful film. **It** was directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

In (ii) we use the passive because we have been talking about something (**the film**), and not the person who did it (**Hitchcock**). We use **by** to say who does, or did, the action:

*This film was directed **by Hitchcock**.*

Practice

- A Complete these sentences with the Present Simple passive form of the verbs in brackets ().

- English is spoken (speak) in many countries.
- The post (deliver) at about 7 o'clock every morning.
- Dinner (serve) in the hotel at 8.30 p.m.
- The building (not/use) any more.
- The Olympic Games (hold) every 4 years.
- How (your name/spell) ?
- What kinds of things (sell) in that market?
- My salary (pay) every month.
- These computers (make) in Japan.
- The rubbish (take) away three times a week.
- The name of the person who committed the crime (not know) .
- This programme (show) three times a week.
- His travel expenses (pay) by his company.

B Complete these sentences using the Past Simple passive form of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 My car was repaired (repair) last week.
- 1 This song _____ (write) by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.
- 2 The phone _____ (answer) by a young girl.
- 3 The film _____ (make) ten years ago.
- 4 When _____ (tennis/invent) ?
- 5 She _____ (not/injure) in the accident.
- 6 He _____ (be born) in 1965.
- 7 Where _____ (this pot/make) ?
- 8 When _____ (this city/build) ?
- 9 This picture _____ (paint) by Picasso.
- 10 When _____ (this book/publish) ?
- 11 The money _____ (give) to him by his parents.

C Change the active sentences into passive sentences. Use the words in brackets.

- 0 We sell tickets for all shows at the Box Office.
(Tickets for all shows / sell / at the Box Office) Tickets for all shows are sold at the Box Office.
- 1 Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb
(The electric light bulb / invent / by Thomas Edison) _____
- 2 Someone painted the office last week.
(The office / paint / last week) _____
- 3 Several people saw the accident.
(The accident / see / by several people) _____
- 4 Where do they make these video recorders?
(Where / these video recorders / make) _____
- 5 Six countries signed the agreement.
(The agreement / sign / by six countries) _____
- 6 A stranger helped me.
(I / help / by a stranger) _____
- 7 They don't deliver the post on Sundays.
(The post / not / deliver / on Sundays) _____

D Put in the correct active or passive form in brackets ().

Fiat
Fiat ⁰ <u>was started</u> (started/was started) by a group of Italian businessmen in 1899. In 1903, Fiat ¹ _____ (produced/was produced) 132 cars. Some of these cars ² _____ (exported/were exported) by the company to the United States and Britain. In 1920, Fiat ³ _____ (started/was started) making cars at a new factory at Lingotto, near Turin. There was a track on the roof where the cars ⁴ _____ (tested/were tested) by technicians. In 1936, Fiat launched the Fiat 500. This car ⁵ _____ (called/was called) the Topolino – the Italian name for Mickey Mouse. The company grew, and in 1963 Fiat ⁶ _____ (exported/was exported) more than 300,000 vehicles. Today, Fiat is based in Turin, and its cars ⁷ _____ (sold/are sold) all over the world.